

THE HOUSE BY THE WAY

By MARGERY WILLIAMS

(Copyright.)

It seemed the only house on the road, which, for the last five miles since he left Birchville, had stretched, flat and dusty and featureless, edged by barren pasture land overgrown with brambles and huckleberry bushes, with here and there a stunted tree to break the monotony. He slowed his bicycle as he drew near, looking at the small square dwelling, with its whitewashed fence and green shutters, and a tiny unpainted barn at the back, and a little patch of cultivated ground in which, between rows of bean-poles and cabbages, he could see the moving flutter of a woman's skirt. She had her back toward him, stooping to gather something. She turned as he stopped at the gate, and he could see her hands full of green leaves and earthy roots.

"Can you tell me—?" he began, dismounting, and then paused as he saw her coming toward him. When she moved something about her struck him instantly as incongruous—he could not have told what. She was young and should have been pretty, but that her hair was strained back too tightly from her face, giving her a look of plainness.

"I'm going to ask you," he began again pleasantly, as she came near, "to let me have a drink at your pump and then put me on the right road for Allentown."

Directly she spoke the incongruity resolved itself. She had the voice of his own native city, clear-cut, educated.

"This is the Allentown road," she said, "and won't you come in, please? The pump is just around at the side."

She held open the unlatched gate and he leaned his wheel against the fence and followed her in. There was a tin dipper turned upside down on the pump top; he filled it and drank. The water tasted good after seven miles of dusty riding.

While he was drinking he observed her again. There was a curious restlessness in her face, a look at once eager and disappointed. It was the expression that comes to those who have watched empty roads for a long time. He glanced at her hands. They were earth-stained and squared at the fingertips by outdoor work, and they, too, had the same nervous lines, the same tired wistfulness.

"I suppose it's very hot riding," she said as he set the dipper down. "Scorching!"

He glanced about him at the tidy garden patch, with its lines of beans and tomatoes, a few summer annuals blooming here and there among the sober green and brown-phlox and marigolds and nasturtiums.

"You have a nice garden here," he said.

"Yes. It's very quiet." She hesitated a moment, then said: "Allentown is eight miles from here. Won't you come into the house and have some tea before you go on? I was just going to make it."

He looked at his dusty boots. "I am alone just now," she said quickly. "And it is so quiet here—no one ever comes. One is so glad to see anybody."

He murmured some vague thanks as she turned abruptly, averting her head, and followed her up the little trodden path to the open door. It was a two-room cottage, with a little lean-to shed at the back, built for a summer kitchen.

"I know it's unmannerly asking you in like this, but you don't mind, do you? and we're quite strangers, so it doesn't matter. One so seldom sees guests here that one likes to make the most of them." She laughed, and he could read the nervous restlessness in her voice, the hunger born of monotony. "Won't you pull that chair up—that's right. Do you take sugar? It's such an age since I poured out tea for anyone!"

There was almost a defiance in her friendliness, her frankness, her reckless eagerness to make the most of this chance hour's companionship. She ate scarcely anything herself; all the time she was watching him, listening to him, chatting in a quick, detached way about one thing and another. She offered him melon and brown bread and butter. Gradually there grew up for him in her face, her manner, something quaintly childish, infinitely pitiful. All the loneliness of her life spoke to him wistfully, tentatively, in this room with its unhome-like furnishing, its air of emptiness.

When he had finished she still kept pressing him to take more. His hand moved unthinkingly to his coat pocket, and she noticed the gesture instantly.

"Yes, do smoke; I wish you would." He lit his pipe.

"Do you live here all the year round?" he asked.

"Yes. Summer and winter."

"Not alone?"

She flushed very slightly. "A husband is away to-day. He is up in the city. Generally he is at home. I expect him back in an hour or so."

He looked round him again at the bare room, indolent in its silent avowal; at her, sitting there with her restless face; her work-hardened hands, and risked all his psychological insight in one simple cast.

"My dear girl, why on earth did you do it?"

She laughed. "Why? Oh, it's easy, isn't it? So you know." She leaned back, her fingers gripping the chair-edge. "It's

all written out for you—you can just come right in here and read it. I suppose I did it because I was a fool—a fool—a fool! There! I suppose you wonder at my sitting here saying it to you, but I've just got to that point. I'd say it to anyone—just anyone at all that came along!"

All the childishness went from her face. She rose, pushing the tea things aside, and moved about the room.

"I guess I don't have to tell you anything, do I? I was young and stupid and I didn't know anything, and it all sounded very simple and beautiful, and I wanted to try it. I thought it would work. A two-room cottage and some books and an acre of ground. Well, I've found it out. Isn't it funny—Isn't it humorous—the sort of thing you read about in books? My God! Do you know when you came along to-day I'd got to such a pitch I was nearly crazy. I felt I had to have some one to speak to, some one to talk to—just anyone at all so long as it was a stranger I could



"I Suppose I Did It Because I Was a Fool!"

tell it all to and then have him go away and forget every word! And if you hadn't come in I'd have made you, if I had to go down on my knees to you! Isn't that shameful? Don't you guess I'm crazy?"

She had spoken quickly, breathlessly, as though every moment were of value and she had to get the words out before he should go his traveler's way and leave her. Now as she stopped short her hand went out and clung to the chair-back, working nervously.

"How old are you?" he said.

"How old do you think?"

"Thirty?"

She laughed again.

"Yes. I knew you'd guess that. I'm 25. That's what it's done for me. I used to be pretty. You wouldn't guess it, would you? I was. Look at my hands—aren't they lovely? And I've had four years of it—four years. It was all right at first—I liked it. I thought it would go on always. But it didn't—I found it out. If anyone had told me that, three years ago, I'd have laughed. I wouldn't have believed it. But I've found it out. He hasn't. He thinks it's all right still. And he'll never know it. That's the funny part. I care so much for him still that I'd hate to have him find it out, to know it was all a big, mad failure. So I've got to stick to it. Only sometimes . . . sometimes . . ."

She moved nearer to him, across the bare floor.

"I'm so glad you came to-day," she said. "I'm so glad. Because if you hadn't I'd have gone crazy. I would! I wanted some one to tell it all to. Do you know I've gone out and talked to the cabbages, sometimes. Isn't that a symptom of insanity? Well, I've done that, before now. But cabbages are dumb—I never knew how dumb they were before. And you're a stranger—we've never met before and we never will again, and you can go right off and forget it. Don't think me a fool—I'm not, really. Only, I had to tell some one. Now I'll be better. I've had it all out and over, and I can go on for another four years."

"You poor little soul!" he said. "You poor little soul!"

He put out his hand and for a moment she clung to it.

"Yes, that was it—to tell some one. It just got on my nerves. Because I never see a soul here—never, never! I get sick for a strange place. Just this half-hour—hasn't it changed me? Oh, I know it! Am I the same woman you met at the gate?"

It was true; he had seen it, even while she was talking. She led the way out to the garden.

"Look at my marigolds!—aren't they dear? They grow better than anything else here. That's the Allentown road, but I'll walk a little way with you. I've got to fetch the cow in before supper time."

He walked beside her, leading his bicycle. They walked slowly and in silence. The cow was tethered to a bush near the roadside.

"I must leave you here," she said. "No, it's all right—I can manage. And you'll keep straight on. I don't think there are any turnings."

They shook hands again. And then it was that the real secret of the strange little house, the one thing that she hadn't told him, rose pitifully and spoke.

"I shan't see you again," she said. "Won't you . . . kiss me?"

When he looked back, after riding a little distance, he could see her still, a lonely blur of pink against the dull green bushes. And behind her the light on its shingled roof and whitewashed walls, like a monument set in the wilderness to the unknown god.

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION.

Territory of New Mexico—Office of the Secretary—Certificate of Comparison—I, Nathan Jaffa, Secretary of the Territory of New Mexico, do hereby certify that there was filed for record in this office at One o'clock p. m. on the twenty-fourth day of May, A. D. 1909, articles of incorporation of The Las Vegas Transit Company, No. 5974, and also, that I have compared the following copy of the same, with the original thereof now on file, and declare it to be a correct transcript therefrom and of the whole thereof.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the Territory of New Mexico, at the City of Santa Fe, the Capital, on this twenty-fourth day of May, A. D. 1909.

(Seal) NATHAN JAFFA, Secretary of New Mexico.

State of Colorado—Office of the Secretary of State—United States of America, State of Colorado, ss—Certificate—I, James B. Pearce, Secretary of State of the State of Colorado, do hereby certify that the annexed is a full, true and complete transcript of the articles of incorporation of The Las Vegas Transit Company, which was filed in this office the twelfth day of May, A. D. 1909, at 10:30 o'clock a. m., and admitted to record.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of Colorado, at the city of Denver, this Fifteenth day of May, A. D. 1909.

(Signed) JAMES B. PEARCE, Secretary of State.

(Seal of the State of Colorado)

Know all men by these presents, That we, Harry Kelly and Secundino Romero, residents of Las Vegas, in the county of San Miguel, and Territory of New Mexico, and James R. Thorpe, Orin S. Moore and William A. Moore, residents of the city and county of Denver, in the State of Colorado, have associated ourselves together as a corporation under the name and style of The Las Vegas Transit company for the purpose of becoming a body corporate and politic under and by virtue of the laws of the state of Colorado and accordance with the provisions of the laws of the said state, we do hereby make, execute and acknowledge in duplicate this certificate in writing of our intention so to become a body corporate under and by virtue of the said laws.

I. The corporate name and style of our said corporation shall be The Las Vegas Transit Company.

II. The objects for which our said corporation is formed and incorporated are to acquire by purchase, lease or other wise a street railway system or street railway lines operated by electricity or other motive power for the carriage of passengers, mail, express, freight and sprinkling cars over, upon and through any and all streets, roads or other thoroughfares in the city of Las Vegas and in the former town of Las Vegas, and in the county of San Miguel in the Territory of New Mexico, and to own, maintain, operate and extend the same, said street railway now connecting the city of Las Vegas with the said former town of Las Vegas; to acquire by purchase, lease or otherwise and to equip, maintain, use and operate power plants and stations for the manufacture and production of electricity or other motive power, and to use, lease or sell the electric or other power so produced; to buy or lease from others electricity or other motive power for the operation of the said street railway and to operate the same either by means of the trolley electric system, or by means of electricity in any form now known, or which may hereafter be discovered and susceptible of use as a motive power, or by any other kind or kinds of mechanical motive power which in the judgement of the board of directors of said company may be deemed advisable for the use, maintenance and operation of the said street railway system, and any extension or extensions thereof; to acquire by purchase or otherwise, any and all franchises, easements, rights, privileges and immunities now or hereafter owned, held or claimed by others which may be necessary or useful in carrying out the objects above named; to acquire by purchase or otherwise, stock, and bonds of other corporations and to hold sell or otherwise dispose of the same; to acquire by purchase, lease or otherwise and to hold, own and use real and personal property necessary, convenient or proper for the business of the said company; to borrow money and to issue bonds or other evidence of indebtedness, and secure the same by

mortgage or deed of trust upon its franchises and property, real, personal and mixed, of whatever description and wheresoever situate; and to do all things necessary, convenient or incidental to the accomplishment of the objects above named.

III.

The capital stock of our said corporation is one hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000.00) to be divided into fifteen hundred (1500) shares of one hundred dollars (\$100) each and said stock shall be non-assessable.

IV.

Our said corporation is to exist for the term of twenty years commencing with the date of the filing of these articles of incorporation in the office of the secretary of state.

V.

The affairs and management of our said corporation are to be under the control of a board of five (5) directors, and Harry Kelley, Secundino Romero, James R. Thorpe, Orin S. Moore and William A. Moore are hereby selected to act as said board of directors and to manage the affairs and concerns of the said corporation for the first year of its existence and until their successors are elected, and the following persons are hereby designated as officers of the said company during the first year, viz: James R. Thorpe, president; Harry Kelley, vice-president; Orin S. Moore, treasurer, and Charles K. Durbin, secretary.

VI.

The operations of our said corporation in the state of Colorado will be carried on in the city and county of Denver, and will also be carried on in San Miguel county, Territory of New Mexico, and the principal place and business office of the said corporation shall be located in the City and County of Denver, and state of Colorado aforesaid.

VII.

Our said corporation is formed for the purpose of carrying on part of its business beyond the limits of the state of Colorado, to-wit, in the county of San Miguel, in the territory of New Mexico, and meetings of the board of directors of the said company may be held beyond the limits of the state of Colorado, and in San Miguel county, New Mexico.

VIII.

The board of directors shall have power to make such prudential by-laws as they may deem proper for the management of the affairs of this corporation according to the statutes in such case made and provided.

In testimony whereof we have hereunto set our hands and seals on this 3rd day of May, A. D. 1909.

SECUNDINO ROMERO, (Seal).
HARRY W. KELLEY, (Seal).
JAMES R. THORPE, (Seal).
ORIN S. MOORE, (Seal).
WILLIAM A. MOORE, (Seal).

Territory of New Mexico,
County of San Miguel, ss

I, Wm. G. Haydon, a notary public in and for the said county in the territory aforesaid, do hereby certify that Harry Kelley and Secundino Romero, who are personally known to me to be the persons whose names are subscribed to the annexed and foregoing certificate of incorporation, appeared before me this day in person and acknowledged that they signed, sealed and delivered the said instrument of writing as their free and voluntary act for the uses and purposes therein set forth.

Given under my hand and notarial seal this 3rd day of May, A. D. 1909. My commission expires January 15th 1913.

WM. G. HAYDON,
Notary Public.

(Notarial Seal)
State of Colorado,
City and County of Denver, ss.

I, Julian H. Moore, a notary public in and for the said city and county in the state aforesaid, do hereby certify that James R. Thorpe, Orin S. Moore and William A. Moore, who are personally known to me to be the persons whose names are subscribed to the annexed and foregoing certificate of incorporation appeared before me this day in person and acknowledged that they signed, sealed and delivered the said instrument of writing as their free and voluntary act for the uses and purposes therein set forth.

Given under my hand and notarial seal this 5th day of May, A. D. 1909. My commission expires May 31, 1912.

JULIAN H. MOORE,
Notary Public.

(Notarial Seal).
Endorsed: No. 49472, articles of incorporation of The Las Vegas Transit Company, domestic. Filed in the office of the secretary of state, of the state of Colorado, on the 12th day of May, A. D. 1909, at 10:30 o'clock a. m.

Recorded in book—page—

JAMES B. PEARCE,
Secretary of State.

By Thomas F. Dillon, Jr.,
Deputy.

WCS 440 Co.

This document was written by Laura Sabine, Stenographer, Date May 15,

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Endorsed: Foreign, No. 5974, Cor. Rec'd Vol. 5 page 615, certified copy of articles of incorporation of the Las Vegas Transit Company. Filed in office of Secretary of New Mexico, May 24, 1909, 1 p. m. Nathan Jaffa, Secretary. Compared C. F. K. to O.

Statement.

Territory of New Mexico—Office of the Secretary—Certificate of Comparison—I, Nathan Jaffa, Secretary of the Territory of New Mexico, do hereby certify that there was filed for record in this office at One o'clock p. m., on the twenty-fourth day of May, A. D. 1909, statement designating agent and place of business in New Mexico of The Las Vegas Transit Company, No. 5975, and also, that I have compared the following copy of the same, with the original thereof now on file, and declare it to be a correct transcript therefrom and of the whole thereof.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the Territory of New Mexico, at the City of Santa Fe, the Capital, on this twenty-fourth day of May, A. D. 1909.

(Seal) NATHAN JAFFA,
Secretary of New Mexico.

Statement by the Las Vegas Transit Company.

The Las Vegas Transit Company, a corporation organized under the laws of the state of Colorado, does hereby, pursuant to the laws of the Territory of New Mexico, state and certify as follows:

1. That the amount of its authorized capital stock is one hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000.00), and the amount actually issued is seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000.00).

2. The character of the business which it is to transact in the Territory of New Mexico is to own and operate a street railway system in the City of Las Vegas and vicinity, San Miguel county, New Mexico, and to do all things necessary, convenient or incidental to the carrying on of the above stated business.

3. Its principal office in the Territory of New Mexico will be at the City of Las Vegas.

4. Said company hereby designates William G. Haydon, a person of full age, actually resident at the City of Las Vegas, in the Territory of New Mexico, as its agent, upon whom process against said company may be served and said agency shall continue until the substitution by writing of another agent.

This statement is made in accordance with the laws of the Territory of New Mexico and pursuant to a resolution of the board of directors of said company.

A Card.

This is to certify that all druggists are authorized to refund your money if Foley's Honey and Tar fails to cure your cough or cold. It stops the cough, heals the lungs and prevents pneumonia and consumption. Contains no opiates. The genuine is in a yellow package. O. G. Schaefer and Red Cross Drug Co.

solution of the board of directors of said company.

In witness whereof said The Las Vegas Transit company has caused these presents to be signed in its name by James R. Thorpe, its president, and its corporate seal to be hereunto affixed by Charles K. Durbin, its secretary, this 15th day of May A. D. 1909.

THE LAS VEGAS TRANSIT COMPANY.

(Signed) By James R. Thorpe,
President.

(Corporate Seal)

(Signed) C. K. Durbin,
Secretary.

Endorsed: Foreign, No. 5975, Cor. Rec'd Vol. 5 page 615, statement designating agent and place of business of The Las Vegas Transit Company. Filed in Office of Secretary of New Mexico, May 24, 1909, 1 p. m. Nathan Jaffa, Secretary. Compared C. F. K. to O. 1-2-3

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Telephone your news items to The Optic, Phone Main 2.

Estray Advertisement.

Notice is hereby given to whom it may concern that the following described stray animal was taken up by W. L. Hart, Casaus, N. M.

To-wit: One brown stallion, 5 years old, about 14 hands high, white star in forehead, wire cut across breast, wire cut on left hind foot. No brands.

Said animal being unknown to this Board, unless claimed by owner on or before June 26, '09, said date being 10 days after last appearance of this advertisement, said stray will be sold by this Board for the benefit of the owner when found.

CATTLE SANITARY BOARD,
Las Vegas, N. M.
1st pub June 1 last pub June 16 1909.